

## VERMONT TRANSCRIPT.

ST. ALBANS.

Friday, June 3, 1864.

## UNION NATIONAL CONVENTION.

The undersigned, who, by original appointment, or subsequent designation to fill vacancies, constitute the Executive Committee created by the National Convention held at Chicago on the 16th day of May, 1864, do hereby call upon all qualified voters who desire the unconditional maintenance of the Union, the supremacy of the Constitution, and the complete suppression of the existing rebellion, with the entire removal of the traitors, to assemble at BURLINGTON on TUESDAY, THE SEVENTH DAY OF JUNE, 1864, at 12 o'clock, noon, for the purpose of presenting candidates for the office of President and Vice President of the United States. Each State having a representation in Congress will be entitled to send delegates, and shall be equal to twice the number of electors to which such State is entitled in the Electoral College of the United States.

EDWIN D. MORGAN, New York, Chairman.  
CHARLES L. GILMAN, Maine.  
J. Z. GOODRICH, Massachusetts.  
THOMAS C. TRINER, Rhode Island.  
GIBSON WELLS, Connecticut.  
And 16 others.

The neglect of a proper observance of the Lord's Day, which prevails to an alarming extent throughout the whole country, has at last awakened the attention of the secular as well as the religious press. One of the Burlington daily newspapers has recently betrayed astonishment and just indignation that base ball was publicly played in the village of Burlington on Sunday in the sight of those church-goers and others who, with the rest of the world, are commanded "to keep holy the sabbath-day."

There exist in St. Albans, we fear, very lax notions in regard to the due observance of the Lord's Day. Large collections of men and boys loitering in the streets, loafing about the corners and hotels and rudely staring at passers by, have been so common on Sundays as to excite no surprise, far less public rebuke. About the station-house boys of all sizes and colors amuse themselves on Sundays with all sorts of games and riding on hand-carts across Champlain street to and fro, without let or hindrance, just as if we had no salaried men set apart as police officers to preserve the peace seven days in a week, and just as if the "rolling stock" of the Railroad Company was at the mercy of stragglers and boys who could get a free ride on Sunday provided the playthings propelled themselves!

On Sunday afternoon last, about the hour of two o'clock, might have been seen lying helpless on the sidewalk in Congress street a man in a beastly state of intoxication, and near the gas house about the same hour another person, not so much overcome with liquor, whose habits were evidently too "convivial."

These sights—disgracing at all times and especially on Sundays—have become so frequent as to astonish some of our most thoughtful citizens. How long this disregard of statute law and the decencies of life are to go unnoticed or unpunished, it is impossible to foresee. The almost universal apathy which prevails, forebodes no good and has already become alarming.

The *Church Journal*, one of the best of our religious newspapers, in a series of powerfully written articles on the demoralization of religion and business, which this cruel war has aggravated, remarks that "the Lord's Day is losing its sacredness. Some of the most widely circulated of our daily papers are issued on Sundays as well as on other days, and few hesitate to read them as eagerly. The preaching and praying about the war in so many pulpits has led one step further, to the holding of open meetings on Sundays for the discussion of political topics and the delivery of secular lectures and the giving of concerts on that day. Military funerals are always fixed for a Sunday where it is at all possible. The circulation of exciting Sunday papers is increasing and the attendance at the houses of public worship is diminishing. We are steadily drifting towards the Sunday of Continental Europe."

Mr. Secretary Seward.—In a recent number of the *Transcript* we quoted a strange paragraph from the *Vergennes Vermont* which evidently was inspired by personal ill will against Mr. Seward. In strange contrast with that quotation we give an extract from a recent number of the *North American Review*. That highly respectable quarterly, whose praise is worth something, speaks of the secretary as a man whose very faults lean to the side of patriotism. It says:—

There seems to be a growing tendency of late to undervalue Mr. Seward. That he should be spoken slightly of in England is not to be wondered at, but that such sneers should be caught up and repeated in this country argues a pitiful provincialism not very flattering to our independence. There is, to be sure, a little inconsistency in the charges brought against him. On that side of the water he is accused of bluntness, and on this, of trucking. A man must have pretty fairly preserved, one would say, the becoming moderation of statesmanship, who is attacked on such opposite grounds. If Mr. Seward sometimes seems to forget civility a little too confident, we at least need him now, the hour for having faith in the destiny of his country. If his dispatches now and then smack a little of the schoolmaster, we must not forget

that European statesmen are boys in their *non-do* in all that concerns a knowledge of us and our affairs.

Mr. Seward by universal admission, was one of the ablest, if not the ablest, of our politicians three years ago, and we cannot believe that he has become so suddenly imbecile. He was an anti-slavery man when it was not yet prosperous to be so, before some of his critics were born, and if he now sets a higher value on the merely territorial integrity of the country than seems wise to some, it is only the natural result of a position which compels him to see and feel more keenly than anything else the weakness and danger which have resulted from disunion in our relations with foreign powers. If we have been idle for three years to thwart all designs at intervention, with the war and ruin that would have followed, we owe it mainly to Mr. Seward; and if his victories have been less noisy and less gratifying to our pride than those in other fields, they have been no less effective, nor less deserving the gratitude of his country.

## THE GREAT COMBINATIONS.

[The following very clear summary of the military operations now under way, will assist the reader in understanding the news already published, as well as that of the present week. We do not know from what source it originally emanated, but it seems to be accurate in its statements so far as they go, and in its repetitions of what we have already published, give a connected form to the history of current events that could not be attained as the tidings reached us piecemeal from day to day.]

The movements of the various armies, East and West, which commenced almost simultaneously about the first days of the present month, were brilliantly conceived, and have thus far been gallantly executed. Gen. Grant matured his plans for them, and took his position in the field to superintend the immediate operations of that body, intrusting to his lieutenants elsewhere the duty and responsibility of carrying out his orders. Therefore, while all these movements are under the immediate direction of the corps or department commanders, Gen. Grant is supposed to exercise a general supervision over the whole.

## THE MOVEMENT AGAINST JOHNSTON.

Next to the advance upon Richmond and Lee's army, perhaps the most important is that of Gen. Sherman upon Johnston in Northern Georgia. It commenced from Chattanooga about the 5th inst., and embraced the corps of Thomas, Palmer, Hooker and McPherson—the latter of whom has been ordered from the Department of Tennessee for the purpose. Gen. Sherman's column thus constituted, was probably 80,000 strong, and consisted almost wholly of veteran soldiers. Johnston's army had been depleted in order to reinforce Lee in Virginia, and therefore, he could make but feeble resistance in the open field against the advance of Sherman. The fortifications in his rear had been strengthened, with a view to the exigency, and, as was soon demonstrated, were sufficiently impracticable. Therefore Gen. Sherman's movements have partaken more of the strategic combinations than direct attack, and as the latest intelligence informs us, have resulted in the evacuation of Dalton by the rebels, and the capture of Rosacea. Now it is understood that Johnston has fallen back upon Rome, whence he must soon retreat, if, as is understood, Gen. McPherson occupies a position flanking him. How much farther he will continue his retrograde movement depends in a great measure upon Gen. Meade's success in Virginia. It is easy, by a glance at the map, to perceive what must be the effect of this occupation of the important points in Northern Georgia upon the rebellion in the Southwest.

## GEN. STONEMAN'S CAVALRY.

Co-operating in this movement is a large body of cavalry under Gen. Stoneman. The latest intelligence we have of him is that he was in Northern Georgia, and had succeeded in whipping Roddy. This rebel cavalry officer may have attempted a raid upon Gen. Sherman's lines of communication and been defeated in his purpose, or he may have been acting as a rear guard to Johnston in the retreat of the latter, and in this capacity been defeated. The despatch does not locate the scene of the engagement; therefore, we are somewhat in the dark respecting it.

## OPERATIONS IN EAST TENNESSEE.

Gen. Schofield is performing an important part of the grand plan by moving against the rebels in East Tennessee, or against all that remained in that locality after Johnston had drawn his reinforcements. The scene of the last engagement is laid at Bull's Gap, which is in Northeastern Tennessee, upon the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad. The rebel forces are understood to be those of Buckner, who previous to the development of their campaign, was reported to be preparing for the invasion of Kentucky, through Cumberland and Pound Gaps. The report states that the rebels have been driven into North Carolina, which relieves East Tennessee of any large organized bodies of the enemy. The position of Gen. Schofield's column enables him to hold this great railroad line securely, and thus close all means of communication between the rebels in Virginia and those in the Southwest. It also preserves Kentucky from any possibility of rebellion.

## GENERAL KILPATRICK'S CAVALRY.

are supposed to have been assisting in the movement of Gen. Sherman. He was, a short time ago, assigned to the command of the cavalry in East Tennessee, and has been detached for duty with the army in Northern Georgia, and participated in the attack on Rosacea.

## IN WESTERN VIRGINIA.

The forces operating in the Kanawha

valley are under Gen. Crook and Averill. The former has moved more in a southerly direction, and has already effected the destruction of portions of the Virginia and Tennessee railroad, while Gen. Averill has directed his attention to the same line of road in the vicinity of New River. Both have met with success, and have accomplished their objects, which we suppose to be the breaking up of the railroad communication between Virginia and Tennessee, so as to render access from the Old Dominion, or ingress to it, impossible for a rebel force.

## GEN. SHERIDAN'S COMMAND.

Gen. Sigel has had the Shenandoah Valley as a theatre of operations. The primary object of assigning him to this duty may have been to prevent the possibility of a cavalry raid through the valley. And it is clear, that that plan not being contemplated, or being deemed impracticable by Gen. Sigel, has pushed his way down the valley, noting better in the capacity of an observing than an invading army. His objective point seems at present to be the vicinity of Stanton and Gordonsville, Charlottesville and Lynchburg. He is moving somewhat slowly, it is true, but this may be in consequence of the duty he is expected to perform in observing Lee's movements, and to enable his cavalry under Crook and Averill, or a portion of them, to join him before he makes the bold dash at the points above named. The extent of his force is not known, but it is supposed to be sufficiently large to accomplish the object.

## THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.

Gen. Meade's army is in the grand centre of this campaign. Other movements are tributary to it in a measure, and upon its success depends the result of the campaign. Gen. Meade's objective point is Lee's army. His mission is to destroy that living barrier to the gates of the rebel capital. In this almost herculean task he is assisted by co-operating movements in Eastern Virginia. To this end, all else has been secondary in importance, and operations upon the coast have been temporarily abandoned in order to give him all the indirect aid possible.

## THE ADVANCE UPON RICHMOND.

The advance upon Richmond by the south bank of the James river, has been entrusted to Gen. Butler, assisted by two very able commanders—Gen. W. F. Smith and Gillmore. The first was the occupation of such a position as would enable communication with the rebel capital to the southward to be severed. This was to prevent Beauregard or other reinforcements from reaching Richmond or Lee. The forces were thrown up the James river as far as possible, there disembarked and marched upon Petersburg. They were held in a position long enough to enable Gen. Kautz to make the initial portion of his cavalry raid and then fall back to the investment of Fort Darling. The occupation of this stronghold is indispensable to the capture of Richmond by assault or siege.

## GEN. KAUTZ'S RAID.

As a preliminary to the movement against Richmond, Gen. Kautz was dispatched with a cavalry force to cut the railroad leading out of Richmond and Petersburg. He succeeded partially in accomplishing his object and prevented a part of Beauregard's army from reaching Richmond. Finding it impossible to envelop off the country, he returned to his base; subsequently started again, and is now understood, has severed the railroad leading to Danville. He has burned important bridges, tore up railroad tracks for miles, and destroyed vast quantities of rebel stores, inflicting incalculable damage upon the enemy.

## GEN. SHERIDAN'S RAID.

was an important co-operating movement, intended to materially assist Gen. Meade. It met with brilliant success, and must have proved highly annoying to the rebels. His dash upon the fortifications of Richmond, whether or not it was part of the programme, was a bold adventure, and deserves the highest commendation. His raid, and that of Gen. Kautz, have cut every line of railroad leading from the rebel capital, have prevented reinforcements reaching Richmond or Lee, and thoroughly paved the way for the forthcoming siege of the rebel capital.

## THE RESULT.

of these combinations is shown in the dispatches, which lead the wires from almost every quarter. From the extreme easterly end of the grand line at Fort Darling to the far west at Dalton, it has been "thundering all around." A line of fire, so to speak, has been drawn along the whole coast marked by the great railroad communication between the northeastern and southwestern of the rebellious states, and every locality has been made to feel the lightning grasp of the folds of the great maecandra.

UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT.—The exercises of the Sixth Commencement of the University of Vermont, which occurs in August next, promises to be of unusual interest. Rev. Dr. Sheild of New York is to preach the Baccalaureate, and also deliver a eulogy upon the lamented President Pease. The "Phi Beta Kappa" are to be addressed by Rev. Rowell D. Hitchcock, D. D., of New York, and the "Society of Editors Inquiry" have secured as their orator Rev. F. D. Huntington, D. D., of Boston. The Mendelssohn Quintette Club will, as for several years past, furnish the music for the occasion.—*Daily Times*.

The next special meeting of the State Historical Society will be held in St. Johnsbury, June 29th and 30th, 1864. At the request of the board of managers, S. H. Taylor, LL. D., of Andover, Mass., has consented to prepare and read, at the approaching meeting of the society, a biographical notice of the late Joseph E. Furber. The friends of the society are anticipating a pleasant and profitable meeting.—*Andover*.

## WAR NEWS.

WASHINGTON, May 26.

To Maj. Gen. Dix:

Dispatches from Gen. Grant this morning inform the Department that the rebel army still holds a strong position between the North and South Anna rivers, where their forces appear to be concentrated.

It will probably require two or three days to develop the operations, which are now proper subjects for publication. The 3rd corps has been concentrated with the Army of the Potomac.

Notwithstanding have been received from any other field of operations.

(Signed) E. M. STANTON,  
Secretary of War.

Washington, May 26—11 p. m.

To Maj. Gen. Dix:

The dispatch from Gen. Grant, mentioned in my telegram this morning, was dated at Jericho Mills, 12 o'clock noon yesterday, the 25th. An official dispatch from headquarters, Quarrel's Ford, at 8 o'clock this morning, has just been received. It details movements in progress since yesterday, of which it is not proper now to say more than that they manifest their result within 24 hours.

Our sick and wounded at Fredericksburg have been transferred to Washington, and the army material and supplies removed to points nearer to the front field of operations.

From the month of April, May 25, Maj. Gen. Canby reports that "the advance from Red river was delayed in crossing the Atchafalaya by the high water, and sufficient pontoon equipment and the crossing was completed to-day, and the army is now moving across the Mississippi. Brig. Gen. H. A. Smith had a spirited engagement with Polignac's rebel division on the 18th inst., defeating it and driving it several miles, and capturing 300 prisoners."

In a report at 10:30 to-day, Gen. Butler says: "Further official reports show that the repulse at Wilson's Wharf was even more complete than I telegraphed. The enemy retreated during the night, leaving 25 of their dead in our hands, and showed a loss in killed and wounded of more than 200. From the accounts of every officer, the negro troops behaved most splendidly."

Nothing has been heard from Gen. Sherman's command.

(Signed) E. M. STANTON,  
Secretary of War.

Washington, May 26—noon.

The heavy rain which set in this morning lasted for several hours. The army will this afternoon abandon its present position across the North Anna, and turn the enemy's right by pushing for the Pamunkey river, over the Bowling Green and Hanover Court House road.

The 6th corps will recross at 3 p. m. at Jericho Ford to be followed at night by the 5th corps via Harles Ford. Crittenden's division will recross at Oxford. Hancock will remain in his position on the south side longest and will form the rear of the column. All the forces will be held during the night. The movement across the North Anna aimed only at the destruction of the Virginia Central Railroad, which has been effectually accomplished, thus cutting off Lee's principal depot of supplies at Gordonsville.

The movement about to be made will be directed to Hanover ferry, over the Pamunkey opposite Hanover town, some 10 miles below the Court House and 15 miles from Richmond.

## WAR DEPARTMENT.

Washington, May 27—10 p. m.

To Maj. Gen. Dix:

A dispatch from Maj. Gen. Banks, dated May 21st, on the Mississippi river, was received to-day. It details the brilliant engineering achievement of Col. Bailey, in constructing a dam across the falls of Red river for the relief of the gumboat fleet, the particulars of which have already been made public. The army in moving from Alexandria to the Mississippi had two engagements with the enemy, one at Mansonia and one at Yellow bayou. In both the rebels were beaten. Gen. Banks states that no prisoners, guns, wagons or other material of the army have been captured by the enemy, except that abandoned by him in the unexpected engagement at Sabine Crossroads on the morning of the 8th of April, that with the exception of the losses sustained there the material of the Army is complete.

A dispatch has been received from Gen. Butler, but no mention is made of any conflict since the defeat of Fitz Hugh Lee at Wilson's Wharf by the colored troops of Gen. Wild.

E. M. STANTON,  
Secretary of War.

Troops having been drawn in from Fairfax station Wednesday to take the place of those forwarded to the front, the guerrillas under Mosby had presented to them a fine opportunity to exhibit their destructive proclivities, and accordingly they set themselves to work to destroy all the buildings in the vicinity, consisting of block houses, warehouses &c., which they accomplished most effectually by firing them. All stores were brought in several days before.

A letter from Gen. Butler's position, May 25th, says the weather was warm. The enemy had made frequent attacks upon our entrenchments, but had been defeated each time with heavy loss. On one of these occasions the Gatling gun, which throws 300 shots per minute, was brought to bear with terrible result. Some of the rebel prisoners captured asked: "What kind of a gun is that? Do you load it all night and fire it all day?"

Washington, May 28—9:30 p. m.

To Maj. Gen. Dix:

An official dispatch from headquarters of the Army of the Potomac at Monongahick Church, 10 miles from

Hanover town, dated yesterday afternoon 5 p. m., has just been received. It states that our army was withdrawn to the north side of the North Anna Thursday night and moved toward Hanover town, the place designated for crossing the Pamunkey. At 9 o'clock yesterday, Friday morning, Sheridan, with the first and second divisions of cavalry, took possession of Hanover Ferry and Hanover town, finding there only a rebel vidette. The first division of the 6th corps arrived at 10 a. m. and now hold the place with a sufficient force of cavalry, infantry and artillery to resist any attack likely to be made upon him. The remainder of the corps is pressing forward with rapidity. Weather fine and perfect.

A later dispatch dated at 7 o'clock this morning, 28th, from headquarters, Monongahick Church, has also been received. It reports that everything goes on finely. Weather clear and cool. The troops came up rapidly and in great spirits, and the army will be beyond the Pamunkey by noon.

Breakebridge is at Hanover Court House with a force variously reported from 3 to 10,000. Wickham's and Lomax's brigades of cavalry are also there.

The dispatch further states that after seizing Hanover Ferry yesterday, Gen. Torbert captured 75 cavalry, including six officers; that the rebel cavalry is exceedingly demoralized and flees before ours on every occasion.

A dispatch from Gen. Sherman, May 28th, 6 a. m., near Dallas, reports that the enemy discovering his move to turn Alamo, moved to meet our forces at Dallas. Our columns met the enemy about one mile east of Pumpkin Vine Creek, and we pushed them back about three miles to the point where the roads fork to Atlanta and Marietta. Here Johnston has chosen a strong line and made hasty but strong parades of timber and earth. Gen. Sherman's right is at Dallas and the centre about three miles north. The country is densely wooded and broken; no roads of any consequence. We have had many sharp encounters but nothing decisive.

No dispatches from any other field of operations have been received to-day.

E. M. STANTON,  
Secretary of War.

New York, May 28.

The *Times* Washington special of the 28th says a Colonel, who has just arrived from the front, which he left Friday evening, informs me that during Thursday night and Friday morning Lee evacuated his strong position on the South Anna, and with his whole army was in full retreat toward Richmond. Our troops are following him up closely. We took a few prisoners. They state that the damage done to the railroad by Sheridan had been unimportant, and that Beauregard's army, or the main body of it, was within the entrenchments at Richmond on Wednesday.

New York, May 29.

The *Times* special at Bermuda Hundred, 27th, says that a reconnaissance on Thursday developed the fact that the enemy were in full force in their entrenchments in front of Gen. Butler's position. Among the wounded in the skirmish was Col. Dutton of the 21st Connecticut.

Washington, May 30.

To Maj. Gen. Dix:

A dispatch from Gen. Grant has just been received. It is dated 29th, at Hanover town, and states that the army has been successfully crossed over the Pamunkey and now occupies a front about three miles south of the river. Yesterday two divisions of our cavalry had a severe engagement with the enemy south of Haine's store, driving him about a mile upon what appears to be his new line. We lost in the cavalry engagement was 350 killed and wounded, of whom but 44 were recovered to have been killed. We have driven the enemy, most of their killed and many of their wounded fell into our hands.

Another official dispatch dated yesterday afternoon at 2 o'clock, details the movements of the several corps, then in progress, but up to that time there was no engagement. Earlier dispatches from headquarters had been sent, but they failed to reach Washington.

E. M. STANTON,  
Secretary of War.

Washington, May 30—9:30 a. m.

To Maj. Gen. Dix:

No official dispatch from the Army of the Potomac has been received since my telegram of Saturday evening. A telegram from Gen. Sherman dated near Dallas yesterday 29th, 7:30 a. m., reports that on Saturday an engagement took place between the enemy and McPherson's corps, in which the rebels were driven back with a loss to them of 2500 killed and wounded. Their killed and wounded were left in our hands, and about 300 prisoners were taken. Gen. McPherson's loss being not over 300 in all.

(Signed) E. M. STANTON,  
Secretary of War.

Washington, May 30—10 p. m.

To Maj. Gen. Dix:

No intelligence later than that which has heretofore been transmitted to you has been received by this Department from Gen. Grant or Gen. Sherman.

A portion of Gen. Butler's forces at Bermuda Hundred, not required for defensive operations there, has been transferred under command of Gen. Sigel, to the Army of the Potomac, and is supposed by this time to have formed a junction.

No change in the command of the Department of Virginia has been made. Gen. Butler remains in full command of the Department of Virginia and North Carolina, and continues at the head of his force in the field.

West Mississippi division which now comprehends the Departments of Missouri, Arkansas and Louisiana. Generals Rosecrans, Steele and Banks remain in command of their respective Departments, under the orders of Gen. Canby as division commander, his military relation being the same as that formerly exercised by Gen. Grant and now exercised by Gen. Sherman over the Department of the Ohio, the Cumberland and Tennessee.

E. M. STANTON,  
Secretary of War.

Hanover town, where Gen. Grant has crossed the Pamunkey, is about fifteen miles from Richmond, and must not be confounded with Hanover Court House, which is about ten miles to the northwest.

Gen. Grant is now approaching Richmond from the North and not from the South East as Gen. McClellan did. This will obviate the passage of the Chickahominy Swamp which were so great an obstacle to the success of Gen. McClellan's advance besides causing the ultimate death of thousands by disease contracted there.

Military men are loud in their praises of the strategic importance of this second flank maneuver by which he has rendered Lee's entrenched stronghold at Hanover Junction useless to the rebels.

It is no longer improper to speak of important movements that have been progressing in this department during the past two days, as they are now fully accomplished.

A large portion of the troops at Bermuda Hundred under Butler has been transferred under command of Gen. Smith to the Army of the Potomac. The troops were sent in transports with great celerity up York river to White House, the new base of supplies for Gen. Grant, Gen. Smith and Brooks passed up yesterday. Gen. Gillmore remains with Gen. Butler at Bermuda Hundred, also Gen. Ames and Wild.

Large quantities of supplies have been sent up to White House.

Gen. Smith and Brooks with their commands arrived at Fortress Monroe last evening from Bermuda Hundred, and after a short stop for coal, &c., left for White House. Gen. Gillmore, Ames and Wild remained at Bermuda Hundred with Gen. Butler.

The base of supplies for Gen. Grant is now established at White House, and fifteen vessels have gone there laden with supplies for Gen. Grant's army.

WAR DEPARTMENT.

Washington, May 31—4 p. m.

To Maj. Gen. Dix:

We have dispatches from Gen. Grant down to 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon. There seemed, the dispatch says, to be some prospect of Lee's making a stand north of the Chickahominy. His force were on the Mechanicsville road, south of Tatopotomoy creek, and between that stream and Howe's shop, his right resting on Shady Grove. Dispositions for an attack were being made by Gen. Grant. Wilson's cavalry had been ordered to destroy the railroad bridges over the Little river and South Anna, and break up both roads from those rivers to two miles southwest of Howe's shop, where the headquarters of our army were established. There is as yet no telegraphic line of communication with Washington.

A dispatch from Gen. Sherman, dated yesterday at 8 a. m., reports no change in the position of the armies. Some slight skirmishing had occurred subsequent to the affairs of Saturday.

No intelligence from any other quarter has been received by this department.

E. M. STANTON,  
Secretary of War.

Washington, May 31—p. m.

To Maj. Gen. Dix:

A dispatch from Gen. Grant, dated 6 o'clock this morning, at Harris's Shops, has just been received. It is as follows:—

"The enemy came over on our left last evening and attacked. They were easily repulsed and with considerable slaughter. To relieve Gen. Warren, who was on the left—speedily, Gen. Meade ordered an attack by the balance of our lines. Gen. Hancock was the only one who received the order in time to make an attack before dark. He drove the enemy from his entrenched position, and still holds it. I have no report of our losses, but suppose them to be small."

Other official dispatches (not from Grant) were received at the same time and give more details. They are dated yesterday (30th May) 8 o'clock p. m.

In the course of the afternoon Warren had pushed down on our left until his flank division under Crawford reached a point abreast of Shady Grove Church. Crawford, having got detached from the rest of the line, was attacked and crowded back a little. The enemy then threw a force which appears to have consisted of Ewell's corps, on Warren's left, attempting to turn it, but was repulsed. The engagement was short, sharp and decisive.

Warren holds his ground at a distance of seven miles from Richmond. He reports that he has taken a considerable number of prisoners, and that there are many rebel dead on the field. Of his own losses he has not yet a report. His later dispatch says the enemy are moving troops to his left, apparently to cover the approach to Richmond in that direction.

"On our right an active conflict has been raging ever since dark, but is now closed. As soon as the enemy attacked the left of Warren, Wright and Hancock were ordered to pitch in, but do not seem to have got ready until after nightfall. No report has yet been received from them."

The other dispatch above referred to is dated at 6 o'clock this morning, and states that in Hancock's attack last night, Col. Brooks drove the enemy out of a strong entrenched position and holds it. The loss is not reported.

Burnside's whole corps got away from Tatopotomoy creek last evening, and in full connection with Warren. The left of Hancock rests on this side of the creek. The 6th corps is on Lee's right and threatens the left arm of the enemy. Smith ought to arrive at Newcastle by noon, whence he can support Warren and Burnside if necessary.

Sheridan, with Gregg's and Tolson's divisions of cavalry is on our left flank. Wilson's is on the right and ready for purposes reported in a former dispatch. The country thereabouts is thickly wooded with pines, with few level openings. The indications this morning are that the enemy has fallen back of the Chickahominy.

Nothing later has been received by this Department.

E. M. STANTON,  
Secretary of War.

Washington, May 31—11:25 p. m.

To Maj. Gen. Dix:

The following dispatch has been received from Maj. Gen. Butler:—

"Yesterday all day heavy firing was heard in the direction of Mechanicsville. Six refugees from Richmond report that Grant was on the Mechanicsville turnpike, 14 miles from Richmond yesterday, that they heard the firing, and that Grant was driving Lee. A woman reports that a meeting was held yesterday in Richmond to see whether the city should be surrendered, burnt, and that the Mayor advised surrender and was put into Gaol. Thunders."

"The enemy attacked my yesterday and were repulsed. Today they have been demonstrating against my works on Spring Hill, on the early side of the Appomattox, but are repulsed."

Nothing further since my telegram this evening from Gen. Grant.

E. M. STANTON,  
Secretary of War.

Washington, June 1—7:30 a. m.

To Maj. Gen. Dix:

We have no intelligence from Gen. Grant, later than yesterday at 6 a. m.

An unofficial dispatch received at 4 o'clock this morning, dated yesterday (May 31st) at Kingston, Ga., from a Major of Gen. Stoneman's staff, from the front this afternoon, and the rebels attacked us early this morning and at 10 a. m. the affair was repulsed.

The enemy were repulsed and left reached railroad near Marietta. To accomplish this object had been purpose of Gen. Sherman's movements for several days. Additional supplies are reaching him, also, ample supplies.

E. M. STANTON,  
Secretary of War.